

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS.

Claims 10-19 are currently pending in this application.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 10-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0052228 to Ko (hereinafter, merely "Ko") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,373,397 to Song (hereinafter, merely "Song") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,549,789 to Kfoury ("Kfoury") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,628,974 to Lim ("Lim").

Claim 10 recites, *inter alia*:

"An electronic device, comprising:...

a rotary operating unit that is freely rotating,
configured to accept rotating operation of a user,

an active element for detecting rotation of said rotary operating unit, and

said active element generates pulse signals having a phase difference depending on a direction of rotation of said rotary operating unit." (Emphasis added)

Applicant respectfully submits that the relied upon portions of Kfoury does not teach or suggest the above identified feature of claim 10. Specifically the relied upon portions of

Kfoury does not disclose or suggest a rotary operating unit that is freely rotating, configured to accept rotating operation of a user, as claimed in claim 10.

Therefore Applicant submits that Ko, Song, Kfoury and Lim, taken either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 10. Specifically, the combination of Ko and Song does not teach or suggest an electronic device comprising a rotary operating unit that is freely rotating, configured to accept rotating operation of a user, as recited in independent claim 10.

Applicant further submits that the rotary operating unit in the present invention is freely rotatable. The electronic device according to the present invention includes the rotary operation unit that is freely rotatable, active elements 31 and 32 for detecting rotation of the rotary operation unit, and control means 43 for controlling the power supply to the active elements 31 and 32 depending on a state of the device. On the other hand, swivel hinge 214, as taught by Kfoury, rotates about two axes of the hinge, first axis 302 and second axis 304. However, the swivel hinge 214 cannot make a complete revolution about axis 302 or 304 as claimed in the instant invention and its rotation is confined to a predetermined maximum angle. Therefore, the rotary operating unit of the present invention is distinguished over the swivel hinge 214 of Kfoury.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 10 is patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from independent claim 10 discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is

also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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